

APPROVED: Meeting No. 22-96

ATTEST: *Paula S. Jewell*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND  
Meeting No. 12-96

March 25, 1996

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in General Session in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, on March 25, 1996, at 7:35 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Rose G. Krasnow

Councilmember Robert E. Dorsey

Councilmember Robert J. Wright

Councilmember Glennon J. Harrison

ABSENT

Councilmember James T. Marrinan (On travel)

In attendance: City Manager Rick Kuckkahn, City Clerk Paula Jewell and City Attorney Paul Glasgow.

Re: City Manager's Report

1. The F. Scott Fitzgerald Centennial celebration continues on March 29 at the Rockville Senior Center with a presentation of the film, "Tender Is The Night," a 1962 classic starring Jason Robards, Jennifer Jones and Joan Fontaine. The first exhibit for "Roaring Twenties Month" features a display of a beautifully restored 1922 Rolls Royce Town Sedan at Rockville's Maryland Motors. The Rolls Royce was loaned to the Centennial celebration by Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Lawson.

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2. Based on the Mayor and Council's success of the Walking Town Meetings, the City's Police Department has modified some of its modes of operation and have divided the City into five sectors. Management staff of the Police Department are assigned to those sections of the City and are responsible for walking tours, meeting with residents, business owners, school authorities, as well as completing an overall public safety observation of the neighborhood. Each street in Rockville is also being surveyed for abandoned vehicles and vehicles parked in an unsafe manner. As a result, over 100 written warnings were issued for these offenses. Mr. Kuckkahn said that this small part of the City's overall policing efforts will be a great enhancement for the City.

3. The February issue of ICMA's Management Information Service Report focuses on Rockville's Animal Control Board and the Animal Control Ordinance. Preliminary information about the City's boards and commissions training program is also highlighted in the Report. The Report is one of the most widely read professional journals for city managers.

Re: Proclamation declaring the  
month of April, 1996 as **FAIR  
HOUSING MONTH** in  
Rockville.

Proclamation No. 1-96

By a unanimous vote of the Mayor and Council, April was declared "Fair Housing Month" in Rockville. Upon the request of the Mayor, Councilmember Harrison read the Proclamation, the full text of which can be found in Proclamation File 1996 of

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the Mayor and Council. The Proclamation was presented to Doug Jones, Chairman of the Human Rights Commission and Commissioner Carol Hannaford.

Re: Proclamation declaring March 25-31, 1996 as **ROCKVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT APPRECIATION WEEK** and recognizing the Department's 75th Anniversary.

Proclamation No. 2-96

By a unanimous vote of the Mayor and Council, March 25-31, 1996 was declared "Rockville Volunteer Fire Department Appreciation Week" in Rockville. Upon the request of the Mayor, Councilmember Wright read the Proclamation, the full text of which can be found in Proclamation File 1996 of the Mayor and Council. The Proclamation was presented to Fire Chief Thomas Musgrove and Rockville Volunteer Fire Department President Benny Poole.

Re: Formal submission by Rusty Wallace of the final report of the Human Needs and Services Advisory Task Force (HNASATF) to the Mayor and Council.

Rusty Wallace, Chair of the Task Force presented the final version of the Task Force's report "Maximizing Community Resources." Mr. Wallace thanked Dr. Philip Schervish, the consultant from Howard University who assisted the group and who had also constructed, distributed and interpreted the surveys, coordinated key

informant groups, and organized the town meeting held last summer. Mr. Wallace thanked the Mayor and Council and former Mayor Coyle, who initiated the Task Force, for their support of the Task Force's work. Also thanked were City staff Rick Kuckkahn, Mary Lou Jacobs, Sharon Marasotas, and former staff members, Bruce Romer, Cheryl Lampkin Thomas, and Josephine Roberts.

The Task Force's mission was to assess the current human services system and make recommendations. Mr. Wallace explained that the Task Force listened to members of the community about the services currently available, which of those were funded by the City, which were used by the residents and which services did residents need and want. Representatives from 24 agencies attended HNASATF meetings to explain their services. Three surveys were conducted on those who use human services, providers of human services, and on the taxpayers. Nine-hundred, forty-seven responses were returned to the City; six out of every ten people felt that human services were important or very important relative to other services funded by the City. Almost eight in ten responded that human services were somewhat important relative to other services the City funded.

The Task Force felt that they should move forward in helping to develop a system of human services that would be the most effective and efficient use of public funds. Mr. Wallace summarized the Task Force's findings and recommendations: A clear majority of survey respondents approved of the use of tax money for human

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services. The City will see an increase in the number of senior citizens, minorities and an increase in family stress. Mr. Wallace said the Task Force found that the City did an excellent job in providing human services as a direct provider, an allocator of funds, and as an advocate to the County, Federal and State governments. They were very impressed that no human services were entirely funded by City tax dollars and that there was a definite emphasis on leveraging funds to create partnerships to make human services work. The Task Force labeled the City's senior programs as exceptional--seniors raised a lot of money, they supported their senior center and they also used a great number of volunteers in carrying out their services. Community Ministries of Rockville was praised for providing a safety net for Rockville citizens through the Rockville Emergency Assistance Program (REAP) and also because of their extensive use of volunteers. The City was on the cutting edge of human services delivery, e.g., with the Latino Outreach Program. Mr. Wallace said that HNASATF felt that citizens would not look favorably on a tax increase, as a first resort, to fund human services.

The Task Force recognized the need for safety net programs and they recommended the creation of a human services advisory commission and the need to raise revenues through a form of a community chest. Task Force members felt it would be helpful to have a system for prioritizing funding and evaluating human services. Safety net programs (e.g., REAP) should receive priority in funding. The Task Force also believes that surveys and demographic trend analysis revealed the need for increases in

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some human service areas identified in the report: employment, services for the aging, and child care, among others. Funding increases in times of decreasing resources is near impossible in the current and near future political and financial climate, and therefore, the Task Force hoped that the Mayor and Council would establish a community chest which would create a variety of ways for Rockville residents to contribute to human services which serve their community.

Mayor Krasnow thanked Mr. Wallace and the members of the Task Force on the broad task assigned to the group. She said the Mayor and Council looked forward to discussing the details of the Report at the Worksession on April 16.

Re: Progress Report on the F. Scott  
Fitzgerald Centennial  
Celebration Events.

John Moser and Don Boebel, Co-Chairs of the F. Scott Fitzgerald Centennial Celebration Committee, distributed copies of the current schedule of events. Mr. Boebel noted that the film "The Great Gatsby" was presented to a select audience at the Civic Center a week ago and "Tender Is The Night" would be shown on March 29. Other events forthcoming were: On April 1st, "F. Scott Fitzgerald's Rockville," a photo exhibition opens with photos by Malcolm Walter. On April 8, banners will be hung around St. Mary's Church indicating where Fitzgerald is buried. Mr. Moser noted that a vintage automobile show of vintage cars would be held in April at Maryland Motors, Century Ford, and at a number of other auto dealers. On April 22, proclamations

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recognizing Rockville on the Fitzgerald centennial will be presented from the Governor, the House and Senate legislatures, and Montgomery County. On May 5-12, the Montgomery County Historical Society opens a fashion show of the Fitzgerald era. May 18 is Peerless Rockville's Progressive Dinner which will conclude with a speakeasy that evening. Hometown Holidays will have a Fitzgerald theme and an F. Scott "look-alike" contest. On June 16, a Great Gatsby picnic will be held at the Mansion. Three events planned at St. Mary's Church will recognize the day Scottie, F. Scott's daughter, passed away. On September 27, a Gatsby Ball will celebrate Fitzgerald's date of birth (September 24). On September 28, an F. Scott Literary Conference will be held and will include writing workshops and presentations, and William Styron, who will receive the first F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Award, will be present to sign books. On December 21, a commemoration will mark the day of F. Scott's death. Many organizations sponsored by the City, e.g., the City Band, City Chorus, Rockville Ballet, will feature special performances between June and December that will include Fitzgerald themes. In addition, other organizations, e.g. Peerless Rockville, Rockville Arts Place, Montgomery College, as well as City staff, have been very helpful in working with the Committee to include an F. Scott/1920s theme into already planned events. On September 28, a twenty-three cents stamp will be issued as a second-day issue. Other events not yet finalized, are being planned and will be announced in the near future.

Mayor Krasnow pointed out that the efforts made by the Committee were

tremendous, and she said it was important to note that the events were being done at little to no costs to the City.

Re: Citizens Forum - This time is set aside to hear from any citizen who wishes to address the Mayor and Council.

1. Mansfield Kaseman, Community Ministries of Rockville said he looked forward to reading the Human Needs and Services Advisory Task Force report, and the Caregivers Coalition looked forward to meeting with Mr. Wallace and City staff in the future.
2. Jim Vitol, President, West End Civic Association (WECA) spoke regarding the Association's request for a sidewalk on Middle Lane between North Van Buren and North Adams Streets. The request was denied by the Planning Commission. Middle Lane, next to the Beall Dawson House, was one of the most pedestrian-traveled routes in the West End and was also the most direct route to the Metro Station from Anderson, Beall, Upton, Forrest and other streets. Mr. Vitol pointed out that there was no sidewalk to reach this house and no accessible way to the house which did not require walking in the street. The Commission did recommend that a sidewalk be included in the Capital Improvement Program; however, Mr. Vitol said that the time for the sidewalk was now while improvements were being made.

In response to a question from Mayor Krasnow, Mr. Vitol confirmed that there were trees on the property which would have to be cut down as well as a telephone



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pole which might have to be moved; however, he noted that a number of trees would have to be cut down for the new parking lot project. Councilmember Harrison said that since the City owned the property, it would not be bound by the necessity of staying within a sidewalk easement, and the sidewalk could be moved around the trees. Mr. Kuckkahn was asked to report back to the Mayor and Council on the tree and sidewalk issues raised by the Mayor and Council, and how to best deal with the problem.

3. Iris Arafa, City Resident expressed concern about the lack of an African-American liaison in County and City programs. She said that she had not been able to get counseling on alternatives for rectifying her housing situation. She suggested that the City take money raised from the 1995 Holiday Drive and instead of feeding the homeless, use the money to meet real estate needs for African-American women.

Re: Approval of Minutes

Upon motion of Councilmember Dorsey, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the Minutes of Meeting No. 06-96 (February 12, 1996) were approved as written.

Upon motion of Councilmember Harrison, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the Minutes of Meeting No. 07-96 (February 26, 1996) were approved as corrected.

Upon motion of Councilmember Harrison, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the Minutes of Meeting No. 08-96 (March 4, 1996) were approved as written.

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Re: Consent Agenda

Mayor Krasnow requested removal of Item C. Upon motion of Councilmember Dorsey, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the following Consent Agenda items were approved:

- (A) Award of Bid #64-96  
To: Kolb Electric, Inc.  
Of: Rockville, MD  
In the amount of: \$270,500  
  
For: Civic Center and Welsh Park  
Outside Lighting Replacement
- (B) Receipt of Financial reports  
summarizing the results of City  
operations for the period from July 1,  
1995, through February 29, 1996.  
  
Re: (Item C) Approval of  
Amendments to the City's  
Pension Plan to increase the  
payment formulas for  
administrative employees and  
accelerate the vesting schedule  
for defined contribution  
payments made by both  
administrative and union  
employees.

Mayor Krasnow asked for clarification regarding the costs estimated by the actuary that have an annual impact of \$10,700 on the City's funding requirements. She said she understood that the employees were paying for the difference and she was not sure if there was a financial impact on the City by the proposed change. Finance Director

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Kevin Deckard explained that there were two basic types of changes: the change in benefit formula and in the cost. A change in the benefit per year of service was being made from 1.8 percent to 2 percent and the employees were paying for this change. The second was a change to the vesting schedule for the employer match. The defined contribution payments dealt with thrift plan employees who started employment after April 1, 1986 who could chose to put 1-5 percent of their pay into the defined contribution plan with the City contributing 50 cents for each dollar the employee put in. Mr. Deckard said that the \$10,700 per year was not viewed as significant because well over one million dollars per year went into the plan from the employer and employees, and he said that the Retirement Board voted that the City pick up the cost. Upon motion of Mayor Krasnow, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the amendments to the City's Pension Plan were approved.

Re: Approval of Application for All-America City and Community Award.

Public Information Officer Don Vandrey explained that the City won its fourth All America City Award in 1979 and this would be the fourth attempt to recapture the honor sponsored by the National Civic League (NCL) and the All State Foundation. Mr. Vandrey explained the type of projects sought out for award. The Projects selected for this year's application were initiated by citizens or were the result of citizen responses to a City issue. All of the issues involved considerable City participation in formation and

implementation. The City's application included three projects: The Community Mediation Program of the Human Rights Commission, the Cabin John Watershed Stormwater Management Program, and the Rockville Senior's Inc. Endowment Program. Mr. Vandrey said that while none of the projects have had much business participation that the NCL usually looked for, they all had business involvement in the development of the projects. An All American City Committee worked with staff on the application; the committee comprised of Carol Hannaford for the Community Mediation Program, Bill Meyer for the Stormwater Management Program, Bob Mentzer for the Rockville seniors program, and Paul Love from the Rockville Chamber of Commerce.

Councilmember Harrison commented that the application was very impressive and he said he hoped that the City stood a good chance of winning the award. Mayor Krasnow commented that she was astounded at the length of the application and the information which had to be provided. Without objection, the application, with minor typographical corrections noted, was approved.

Re: Correspondence

Mayor Krasnow noted receipt of a letter from Governor Glendening stating his intention to recommend funding for the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre renovations.

Re: New Business

There being no items for discussion under "New Business," Mayor Krasnow declared this portion of the meeting closed.

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Re: Adjourn to Executive Session

Upon motion of Councilmember Wright, duly seconded and unanimously passed, with Mayor Krasnow, Councilmembers Dorsey, Harrison, and Wright voting "aye" and Councilmember Marrinan absent, the Mayor and Council adjourned the General Session at 9:00 p.m. in order to convene in Executive Session, pursuant to Section 10-508(a)(1)(ii) of the State Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, to discuss personnel matters.